

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 09109 01 OF 02 091726Z

43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AEC-11 ACDA-19 SCI-06 FEAE-00 AID-20

CEA-02 CIEP-02 COME-00 EB-11 FPC-01 INT-08 OMB-01

SAM-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 XMB-07 FRB-02 /230 W
----- 056857

R 091853Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2568

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 9109

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS AND OTHER ATOMIC TECHNOLOGY

1. SUMMARY AEC CHAIRMAN SETHNA PLANS ABOUT SIX MONTHS OF STUDY OF THE POKARAN EXPLOSION AFTER WHICH THE AEC WOULD KNOW WHETHER OR NOT TO RECOMMEND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS TO INCREASE GUJARAT OIL PRODUCTION. HE SAID HE IS NOT NOW THINKING OF H-EXPLOSIONS SINCE DATA AVAILABLE IS AS YET INSUFFICIENT. END SUMMARY.

2. NO TRANSCRIPT OF SETHNA'S JULY 8 TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS IS AVAILABLE, NOR IS A COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT OF HIS SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE. THE MOST COMPLETE REPORT AVAILABLE IS FROM THE MOTHERLAND JULY 9, 1974.

3. "USE OF N-ENERGY TO STEP UP OIL OUTPUT PLANNED--

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 09109 01 OF 02 091726Z

H.N. SETHNA --NEW DELHI, JULY 8.

"THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION IS CONSIDERING THE USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY TO STEP UP OIL PRODUCTION FROM THE GUJARAT OIL FIELDS, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WERE TOLD TODAY, REPORTS PTI.

"CHAIRMAN OF AEC H.N. SETHNA SAID HERE THAT THE TIMING AND NATURE OF THE NEXT NUCLEAR EXPLOSION WOULD DEPEND ON THE DATA BEING COLLECTED FROM THE MAY 18 EXPERIMENT AT POKARAN.

"SHRI SETHNA, WHO WAS BRIEFING NEWSMEN ON THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF MPS FOR ATOMIC ENERGY TODAY, SAID THAT MEMBERS SOUGHT SOME DETAILS OF THE EXPERIMENT AND WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT FUTURE TEST PLANS.

"IT WAS EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THE SCIENTISTS WERE NOW CARRYING OUT DRILLING OPERATIONS AT THE SITE TO COLLECT DATA, AND THIS WOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS OR SO.

'AFTER THAT ONLY, WE SHALL THINK ABOUT ANYTHING MORE'.

"H-DEVICE: ASKED IF AEC WAS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING HYDROGEN DEVICE FOR PEACEFUL EXPLOSIONS, SHRI SETHNA SAID HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SAY ANYTHING UNTIL THE DATA FROM THE RAJASTHAN EXPLOSION WAS ANALYZED.

"THE QUESTION WAS 'HYPOTHETICAL AT PRESENT. AEC WAS NOT THINKING OF A HYDROGEN DEVICE FOR RELEASING OIL FROM THE GUJARAT FIELD BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION WITH 'TRITIUM', A FEUL AS WELL AS A BYPRODUCT OF HYDROGEN EXPLOSION, HE SAID.

'TILL WE HAVE EXAMINED EVERYTHING, WE ARE NOT THINKING IN TERMS OF HYDROGEN-SYSTEM', SHRI SETHNA ADDED.

"IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION, SHRI SETHNA SAID BLUNTLY:

'WE ARE NOT IN THIS BUSINESS JUST TO MAKE EXPLOSIONS'.

"SITES IN VIEW: THE AEC, HE SAID, HAD THREE OR FOUR SITES IN VIEW FOR THE NEXT STAGE OF PEACEFUL APPLICATION OF NUCLEEA ENERGY. "TITRITUM CONTAMINATION FROM H-EXPLOSION WAS A KNOWN HAZARD AS IT WAS TRIED IN THE "GAS BUGGY" PROEJCTS OF THE UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION.

"SHRI SETHNA SAID IT WAS EXPLAINED TO THE COMMITTEE THAT A PRESS REPORT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPLOSION OF A THERMO-NUCLEAR ENERGY WAS BASED ON A COMPLETELY WRONG INTERPRETATION OF WHAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 09109 01 OF 02 091726Z

THE DIRECT OF BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE, DR. R. RAMANNA, HAD SAID ABOUT THE VARIABLE ENERGY CYCLOTRON PROJECT.

"NO FALL OUT: DISCREDITING REPORTS THAT RADIO-ACTIVITY FROM THE TEST ESCAPED TO PAKISTAN, SHRI SETHNA SAID SUCH A THING WAS "PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE'.

"THE WIND DIRECTION AND CIRCULATION WAS SUCH THAT IF ANYTHING

HAD ESCAPED, IT MUST HAVE FIRST REACHED DELHI AND THEN CALCUTTA
BUT NOT PAKISTAN, HE SAID.

"THE AEC CHAIRMAN SAID THAT HE HAD INVITED HIS CANADIAN COUNTERPART,
DR. LOREN GRAY, TO VISIT INDIA, BUT HE COULD NOT COME BECAUSE
'HE IS BUSY'.

"DR. SETHNA SAID HIS MEN HAD STARTED DRILLING HOLES AT THE TEST
SITE TO OBTAIN SAMPLES OF ROCK FOR ANALYSIS.

" THE FIRST SERIES OF HOLES WERE DRILLED AT A DISTANCE OF ONE
KILOMETRE AROUND THE SITE AND GRADUALLY 'WE WILL CLOSE IN',
HE SAID. THE EXPLOSION WAS CARRIED OUT AT A DEPTH OF 100 METRES,
BUT HOLES WOULD BE DRILLED AS DEEP AS 250 METRES.

"DR. SETHNA SAID THE IDEA WAS TO FIND OUT THE LOCATION OF THE
'CAVITY', WHICH IS BELIEVED TO CONTAIN THE RADIOACTIVITY PRODUCED
IN THE EXPLOSION.

"N-POWER UNIT: SOME MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WANTED TO KNOW
ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF PLANS TO SET UP A NUCLEAR POWER STATION /THE /
IN
EASTERN REGION.

"THE MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT THE QUESTION WAS UNDER CORRESPONDENCE
BETWEEN THE CHIEF MINISTER OF WEST BENGAL AND THE ATOMIC
ENERGY COMMISSION.

'WE FEEL THAT A NUCLEAR STATION ABOUT 800 KILOMETRES OR SO FROM
THE COAL FIELD WOULD MAKE THE STATION VIABLE', SHRI SETHNA SAID.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 09109 02 OF 02 091730Z

43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AEC-11 ACDA-19 SCI-06 FEAE-00 AID-20

CEA-02 CIEP-02 COME-00 EB-11 FPC-01 INT-08 OMB-01

SAM-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 XMB-07 FRB-02 /230 W

----- 056994

R 091853Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2569
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 9109

"THEY SEEM TO THINK IN TERMS OF 300 KILOMETRES. THE NEW DATA, WHICH THE WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT HAS GATHERED, HAS BEEN SENT TO US AND IT IS BEING EXAMINED. AFTER EXAMINATION, WE WILL HAVE TO SELECT THE SITE.

"THE ESTERN REGION INCLUDES THE STATES OF BIHAR, WEST BENGAL AND ORISSA, HE POINTED OUT.

"THE COMMITTEE ALSO SOUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF WORK TO EXPLOIT RADIO ACTIVE BEACH SANDS IN THE GOPALPUR AREA ON THE EAST COAST.

"SHRI SETHNA SAID THAT THE PROJECT WOULD INVOLVE AN OUTLAY OF RS. 30 CRORES IN THREE STAGES. BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL STRINGENCY, IT WAS NOT CERTAIN WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF RS. 10 CRORES FOR THE FIRST STAGE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. THE GOVERNMENT WAS NEGOTIATING WITH SOME FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THIS RESPECT.

"A-SCIENTISTS FELICITATED: MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TODAY CONGRATULATED SCIENTISTS OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION ON THE 'GREAT BREAKTHROUGH',

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 09109 02 OF 02 091730Z

ACHIEVED THROUGH THE PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPERIMENT OF MAY LAST, REPORTS PTI.

"A MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS, PRESIDED OVER BY PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI HAILED THE EXPERIMENT AS A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE NATIONAL GOAL OF ACHIEVING TECHNOLOGICAL SELF-RELIANCE."
SCHNEIDER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, PETROLEUM, POKARAN EXPLOSION, NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, EXPLOITATION (NATURAL RESOURCES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE09109
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740182-0424
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740765/aaaacdmz.tel
Line Count: 212
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS AND OTHER ATOMIC TECHNOLOGY
TAGS: TECH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005